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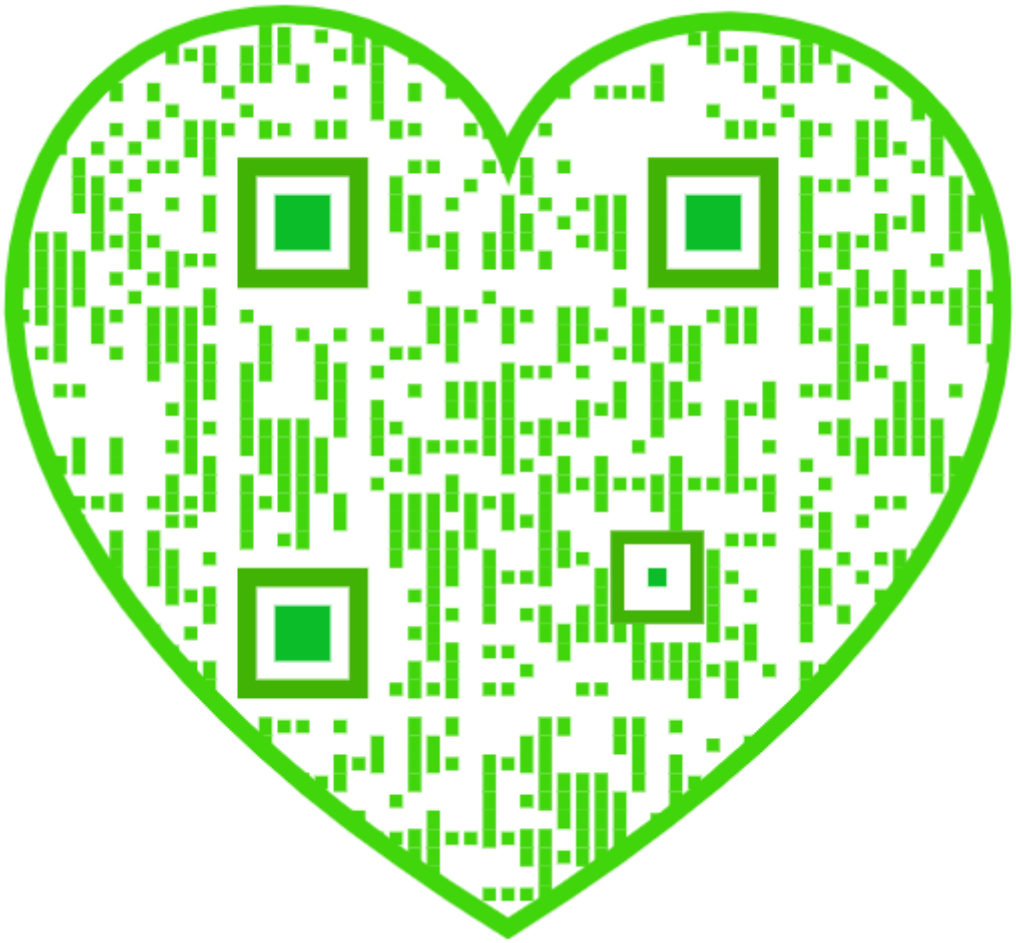

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CHRISTMAS GLADNESS.

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By
Annie C. McLuskey

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Now the soft-hued light of morning
Wakes from out the eastern sky,
Touching earth with rosy fingers,
Gilding shadows ere they fly,
Till the heavens in their glory
Shine resplendent far and wide,
While the earth with arms uplifted
Welcomes in the Christmas-tide.

ROBED in beauty for its coming:

Clothed in winter's garb of snow,

From the mountain's crest of verdure

To the wooded slope below,

Decked with crystal jewels sparkling,

As the sun reflects their light,

Mirrowed in a thousand fancies

From the waters, calm and bright.

FROZEN drops of water glisten
From the branches of the trees,
Like sweet fairy bells their voices
Wake with every passing breeze.
Comes a sound of merry laughter
From some Elfin band at play,
As with airy footsteps falling
Through the glen they gayly stray.

NATURE'S sweetest music lingers
In each sound and echoes clear,
High above the tree-tops wafted
Through the forest far and near.
Christmas joy and Christmas gladness
Fill the air with soft refrains,
While the peace of olden story
Over all in blessing reigns.

ANNIE C. McQUEEN.

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